

## Sugarcane farmers climb down

---

*They will settle for Rs.2,650 per quintal so as to allow crushing to resume*

Farmers under the leadership of MP and Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana leader Raju Shetty withdrew their protest for higher sugarcane prices prematurely on Friday. Announcing the decision at a press conference in Sangli, Mr. Shetty stated that the farmers have reduced their demand for the first advance, and that the ball is now in the government's court.

“We have made this decision after a well-thought-out meeting with all the farmers. We do not want to delay the crushing process. But now the government and factory owners should act responsibly,” Mr. Shetty said, withdrawing a two-day Bandh.

The farmers had earlier demanded Rs.3,000 per quintal of sugarcane. They have now reduced it to Rs.2,650. Last year, most farmers got Rs.2,500 as the first advance, said Mr. Shetty. Challenging the government, the SSS leader said: “Our farmers will not accept anything less than this. Either give us what we deserve or take our cane for free.”

If their demand is not met, farmers will protest again on January 1, said Mr. Shetty. He said they farmers were willing to withdraw their democratic right to protest as a sign of compromise. The development comes even as the three-member committee set up by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is yet to announce any decision. Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar is expected to announce a national level policy on sugarcane on December 6.

Blaming the government for its inaction, Mr. Shetty said, “Last year, nobody intervened even after two farmers lost their lives while protesting. We do not want things to take a violent turn this year.”

### **FRP plus tips**

While the government announces a Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP), factory owners generally pay farmers more according to their discretion and capacity. However, in the last three years, there have been violent protests as farmers have rejected factory owners' prices. “The factory owners can declare what they can give and the government can add the remaining amount if they care for farmers,” Mr. Shetty said.

The last two days witnessed violent protests across Western Maharashtra, as farmers took to the streets and blocked the Mumbai-Bangalore National Highway. Mr. Shetty, however, blamed political forces for the protests turning violent. He pointed at Maharashtra's Rural Development Minister Jayant Patil for having incited violence. "Farmers were calm, but it was Mr. Patil's followers who vandalised buses on his orders," he stated.

- 
- *Factory owners, government must act responsibly, says farmers' leader*
  - *State Rural Development Minister incited violence, says Raju Shetty*
- 

## Farmers will be protected, says Thiruvanchoor

---

Home Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan has cautioned against inflaming popular sentiments to create what he said a 'smokescreen' against the UDF government. Speaking at a seminar on K. Kasturirangan panel report organised by the Youth Congress here on Friday, Mr. Radhakrishnan said it was not the first time that attempts were made to ignite popular sentiments against the government during the past three years. When it came to the issue of the Kasturirangan report, these forces had made use of the services of mafias, he alleged.

Though there were discrepancies in determining the ecologically sensitive areas, no one would disagree with the scientific approach the panel had taken in suggesting steps for protecting the fragile environs of the Western Ghats, he said.

## Farmers threaten walkout at grievance day meet

---

*Absence of heads of various departments flayed*

Absence of heads of some departments including PWD and propagation of highly expensive agriculture practices irked farmers at the grievance day meeting held at Collectorate near here on Friday. At one stage, farmers were prepared to walkout of the meeting hall. It was after intervention of district-level officers, they withdrew their decision and attended the meeting.

Deputy Director of Horticulture Chandrasekar explained about cultivation of vegetable and flowers under green house system and said that the cost for establishing a 1,000-square-foot green house

would be around Rs.10 lakh of which Rs.4.65 lakh would be subsidy. It would increase the yield, prevent pest and disease attack and also scale down evaporation of water from the field. He also explained about another advanced technology.

Farmer C. Sachidanandham intervened and told that such advanced and highly-expensive technologies would not be suitable to farmers with small land holdings in villages. He appealed to the officials to offer low-cost technologies to boost yield and profit.

When farmers raised various issues in connection with the public works department, there was no executive engineer or assistant executive engineers to respond to their queries.

The highly disappointed farmers questioned as to how would the PWD officials, who boycotted the meeting presided over by the Collector, help farmers in distress when they approached them in person. Condemning their absence, they said the meeting was a mere formality and expressed their decision to walkout of the meeting. Later the officials convinced them.

Reacting to a question on inordinate delay in settling compensation for destroyed coconut crop owing to drought, District Revenue Officer K. Manoharan said that compensation had been released to 26 districts, including Dindigul. The amount would be disbursed shortly.

Collector N. Venkatachalam said that load shedding schedules would be intimated to the farmers well in advance.

Earlier, the agriculture officials said that the district received 41 mm rainfall, just 25 per cent of normal rain of 163 mm during November. Similarly, the total rainfall this year so far was 406 mm as against the annual rainfall of 771 mm. The officials were hopeful of the district receiving rain in December. Sufficient stock of seeds and fertilizer were kept ready for distribution, he added.

## Farmers express concern over pollution

---

Issues pertaining to foot and mouth disease, pollution, water availability for sustaining paddy cultivation, and sugar cane procurement dominated the farmers' grievances day meeting here on Friday.

### **Dyeing units**

Farmers wanted the district administration to keep a watch on unauthorised dyeing units in Bhavani area, apprehending that the units that had been closed down at Komarapalayam in the neighbouring district had shifted base.

Those whose animals had been affected by foot and mouth disease sought compensation of Rs. 30,000 for every cow that had died due to the ailment. Farmers from the tail-end areas made a fervent plea for extending the duration of water flow in the Lower Bhavani Project canal by a

fortnight. The farmers wanted the district administration to keep them informed about water stoppage in the LBP canal.

## Sugar price slump jolts Coop mill

---

*Accumulated loss could go up by Rs.25 crore by the end of next crushing season*

The prolonged slump in sugar prices has aggravated the crisis faced by the Puducherry Cooperative Sugar Mill at Linga Reddy Palayam near Puducherry.

According to market sources, one kg of sugar fetched Rs.32 to the Cooperative Sugar Mill at the end of crushing season in 2012-13. This year, it has come down to Rs.28 per kg in the whole sale market. The national average wholesale price is also hovering around Rs.29 a kg.

According to industry sources, the chances are remote for the stabilization of sugar price in the near future as many of mills are in a hurry to liquidate stock to raise cash flow to start the crushing season. The negative sentiment on sugar price, sources say, will have a huge impact over the functioning of the sugar mill, which is struggling to resume operations for the crushing season due to acute shortage of funds. The slump in prices is expected to increase the accumulated loss from Rs.150 crore to Rs.175 crore at the end of next crushing season.

“If we commence the production with the current market condition and considering the high overhead cost, which is more than the industry standard, we may incur Rs.25 crore to Rs.27 crore at the end of crushing season,” said M. Rajasekar, Managing Director, Puducherry Cooperative Sugar Mill.

The prevailing price of sugar was very low when the cost of production of a kg of sugar was around Rs.40. There were reasons to believe that it would aggravate the crisis faced by the mill. However, the management was committed to resume the mill operation for the upcoming crushing season which could begin by December third week. The mill expects to receive 2 lakh MT of sugar cane. The recovery rate would be between eight to nine percent.

Asked about NOC demanded by the cane growers for sending sugar canes to the private mills, he said most of the registered cane growers still showed interest in supplying canes to the cooperative mill as it was following fair and accurate policy on many aspects. Moreover, it had almost settled their pending dues, he noted.

## Enumerate cattle deaths caused by FMD

---

### FMD impact in Tiruchi district

- 3.10 lakh head of cattle vaccinated in September and October
- 11 cattle deaths reported, 8 died due to acidosis
- 3,378 head of cattle affected, 3,335 have been cured
- Many cattle deaths have gone unreported, say farmers
- Farmer's in Posampatti and Podavur have buried the carcasses of FMD affected cattle



Standing by their point: Farmers raising the issue of foot-and-mouth disease at the farmers' grievances day meeting at the collectorate in Tiruchi on Friday.— PHOTO: R.M. RAJARATHINAM

*'VAOs do not register deaths as they insist on post-mortem reports to establish the cause of death'*

Farmers representatives of Tiruchi district on Friday demanded village-wise enumeration of cattle deaths caused by the foot and mouth disease.

Disputing the claims of the district authorities that only three cows have died in the village due to the disease, the farmer's representatives claimed that many cattle deaths have gone unrecorded.

Raising the issue at the farmer's grievances meeting, Ayilai Sivasuriyan, district secretary of the CPI-affiliated Tamil Nadu Farmers Association, said there have been widespread deaths across the district and demanded that the district administration to conduct an enumeration through the village administrative officers (VAOs). Farmers have sustained heavy losses and should be compensated.

Puliyur A. Nagarajan, president, Horticulture Crop Producers Association, said there have been quite a few cattle deaths due to the disease in villages such as Posampatti and Podavur and many farmers have buried the carcasses. VAOs are not registering the deaths, insisting on production of post mortem reports to establish that the deaths were due to FMD. N. Ganesan, joint secretary, Tamil Nadu Milk Producers Welfare Association, suggested that vaccination for cattle be carried out on particular dates every year on the lines of the Pulse Polio immunisation campaign.

I. Chinnadurai, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, said 3.10 lakh heads of cattle were vaccinated in the district in September and October and so far only three cows, including one at Dheerampalayam and two at Nagar, have died.

Eight treated cattle had died in Punganur village due to acidosis, days after recovering from the disease. Of the 3,378 head of cattle that were affected by the disease, 3,335 have been cured and the rest were under treatment. Field inspections by officials have found that there was no cattle death due to the disease at Podavur and Posampatti villages. Whenever cattle deaths are reported, Animal Husbandry Department officials have been directed to conduct post mortem to establish the cause of the deaths, he said .

Collector Jayashree Muralidharan said the district administration has also supported a private initiative to administer Siddha medicine (meant to boost immunity) to about 35,000 cattle in the district. Rejecting the demand for conducting an enumeration of cattle deaths across the district, she, however, said the district administration was willing to conduct enquiries if farmers came up with specific complaints of unrecorded deaths in villages. Even under normal circumstances, 40 cattle deaths occur in the district on an average and all deaths cannot be attributed to the FMD .

Compensation was a matter of policy which cannot be decided at the district level; she said and pointed out that there was also a case pending before the High Court on the matter.

***“Compensation was a matter of policy which cannot be decided at the district level.”***



## Farmers urged to plant saplings on agricultural land

---



Green drive:K. Amaranarayana, district in-charge secretary, watering a sapling at a plantation drive in Mandya on Friday.

District in-charge secretary K. Amaranarayana said it is essential to plant trees in agricultural fields across the district to stabilise the farming community financially besides tackling the effects of global warming, environmental pollution and seasonal variations.

He was speaking after launching a sapling plantation drive on the premises of the government post-matric hostels for boys here on Friday. The event was organised by Krishik Lions, Parisara Rural Development Society and the Forest Department.

Mr. Amaranarayana appealed to the organisations to extend the programme to villages in all gram panchayats in the districts. Afforestation should be promoted and farmers should be encouraged to plant saplings in agricultural fields.

## ‘Hike paddy procurement price to Rs.2, 500 a quintal’

---

The Cauvery Delta Farmers Welfare Association has appealed to the State government to hike the procurement price of paddy to Rs.2, 500 a quintal for the kuruvai and samba seasons this year.

For farmers who had raised paddy during the kuruvai season, the recent rain came as a bane as the crop was in advanced stage in the district. Some fields were inundated and the yield could be affected by up to 50 per cent.

Given the drop in yield, rise in input costs and shortage of labour, the government should hike the procurement price from Rs.1,440 to Rs.2,500 a quintal, said G. Kanagasabai, president of the association, speaking at the farmers’ grievances day here on Friday.

He also urged the district administration to take steps remove encroachments and silt from tanks and irrigation channels in the district.

R. Subramanian, deputy secretary of the association, urged the Public Works Department to ensure that adequate quantity of water was released in the irrigation canals in Tiruchi and Karur district from the Cauvery River at Mayanur. Whenever there was rain in the core delta districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam, the discharge from Mettur Reservoir was reduced and due to this practice, farmers dependent on the irrigation canals in the Tiruchi and Karur district were deprived of water.

P. Ayyakannu, State vice president, Bharathiya Kisan Sangam, charged that some of the commercial banks were using agents to seize tractors of farmers who had defaulted on loans and urged the district administration to stop such measures.

R. Raja Chidambaram said BT cotton crop raised in Pullampadi union in the district have been affected by verticillium wilt disease and urged the district administration to direct experts to conduct a study and recommend remedial measures.

- 
- *'Remove encroachments and silt from tanks and irrigation channels'*
  - *'Ensure adequate release of water in canals from Mayanur barrage'*
- 

## **CPI(M) wants compensation for farmers**

---

Communist Party of India (Marxist) has urged the district administration to compile a list of goats and cows which died of foot-and-mouth disease in Tiruchi district recently and provide because of compensation to farmers who had lost their domestic animals.

While urging the district administration to take steps to check the rapid spread of foot-and-mouth disease, the party said the authorities should arrange to make available medicines for this disease at the panchayat level.

A resolution to this effect was adopted unanimously at the party district executive committee meeting held here recently.

Claiming that hundreds of goats and cows afflicted with foot-and-mouth disease had died across the district, the party said this had immensely affected farmers. Similar to the relief given in neighbouring Karnataka, compensation to the tune of Rs. 10,000 for every goat and Rs. 25,000 for each cow that died due to the disease should be given in Tamil Nadu, the resolution said.



## Sand quarries

Another resolution urged the State government to open sand quarries in the State within the legal framework and wanted the government to lift sand instead of appointing contractors. It sought steps to check smuggling of sand to other States and its second sale. These steps would not only reduce illegal sand mining but also help in protecting labourers who were unemployed in the construction and lorry transportation industry.

## Mulberry cultivation gets impetus

---

The government was providing grant to the small and marginal farmers through the sericulture department to promote mulberry cultivation in the district, said Collector V. Sampath.

As part of the sericulture improvement scheme, the Collector handed over cheques amounting to Rs.1.29 lakh towards grant to 31 mulberry growers at the Farmers' Grievance Day session held here on Friday. The sericulture department was of the view that mulberry cultivation and silk worm rearing were labour intensive activities.

Nonetheless, these required less capital and had short gestation period and hence, ideally suited to the small and marginal farmers, he said.

While mulberry cultivation has been taken up on a substantial scale in the western districts, the extent of coverage was on a reasonable scale in Villupuram and Cuddalore districts, he said.

Mulberry cultivation would give an impetus to silk worm rearing and such an activity in turn would enhance raw silk production. Hence, it would partly meet the requirement of raw silk in the State, he hoped.

Mr. Sampath also gave away prize money worth Rs. 80,000 to 34 farmers who had produced the best yields in paddy and maize in the district during the financial year 2012-2013.

He called upon the farmers to set up farm ponds which would bring many benefits such as serving the irrigation purpose, rearing fish and replenishing the ground water. For the purpose of digging farm ponds, the farmers could engage the beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme.

The Collector also noted that two godowns meant for storing vegetables had been set up at Olakkur and Alanguppam.

The farmers could use the godowns to store vegetables and sell their produce at opportune time to make profits, that too without the intervention of middlemen.

In response to the farmers' demand for improving the water sources, the Collector said that steps had been taken to remove the encroachments and also to deepen the irrigation canals and the lakes.

Mr. Sampath also noted that to meet the requirements of farmers for the current samba season, adequate stocks of seeds and fertilizers were being stored in the district. Through the cooperative societies also the farmers could get their grievances redressed, he said.

As precautionary and preventive measures against the spread of the foot-and-mouth disease, the Collector asked the farmers to get their cattle immunized in the nearby veterinary hospitals. Deputy Director (Agriculture) R.Chakravarthi, Personal Assistant to Collector (Agriculture) S. Rajasekaran, Assistant Director (Horticulture) Raju and others were present.

## **Sugar mill owners making false claims: Kurubur Shanthakumar**

---



Kurubur Shanthakumar

Karnataka Rajya Kabbu Belegarara Sangha president Kurubur Shanthakumar alleged here on Friday that Minister for Excise Satish L. Jarkiholi, who runs a sugar factory in Gokak taluk of Belgaum district, apart from managing other sugar mills in the State, had made false claims on payment of sugarcane bills to cane growers.

He said in a release issued here that these factories had paid only Rs. 2,000 a tonne to the grower for the sugarcane supplied last year, and had falsely claimed to the government that they had paid Rs. 2,400 a tonne. The Core Green Sugar Mills in Gulbarga had also made similar false claims.

He said more than Rs. 800 crore was due from various sugar mills to the growers for produce supplied during the preceding crushing year 2012-13, and urged the government to appoint a committee to take up an impartial probe into the claims of sugar mills and take action against those making false claims.

“It is not fair on the part of the State government to mislead the growers and public by presenting false claims made by the sugar mills on the floor of the legislature,” he said.

The government should issue directions to all the concerned authorities to regularly monitor weigh bridges installed at both co-operative and private sugar factories to check tampering, as there were allegations of 10 p.c. to 15 p.c. difference in the weight for every truck load.

### **Compensation**

Mr. Shantakumar demanded imposing a fine of Rs. 25 lakh on sugar mills that had not made full payment of dues to farmer Vittal Bhimappa Arabhavi, who had committed suicide during the ongoing farmers’ agitation in front of Suvarna Soudha on Wednesday.

### **Appeal**

Mr. Shanthakumar appealed to all the sugarcane growers to contribute Re. 1 for every tonne supplied to the mill so that the amount collected could be utilised to help the sugarcane growing families who have lost their members to suicide in various parts of the State.

## **Farmers urged to plant saplings on agricultural land**

---

District in-charge secretary K. Amaranarayana said it is essential to plant trees in agricultural fields across the district to stabilise the farming community financially besides tackling the effects of global warming, environmental pollution and seasonal variations.

He was speaking after launching a sapling plantation drive on the premises of the government post-matric hostels for boys here on Friday. The event was organised by Krishik Lions, Parisara Rural Development Society and the Forest Department.



Green drive:K. Amaranarayana, district in-charge secretary, watering a sapling at a plantation drive in Mandya on Friday.

Mr. Amaranarayana appealed to the organisations to extend the programme to villages in all gram panchayats in the districts. Afforestation should be promoted and farmers should be encouraged to plant saplings in agricultural fields.

## A saving grace for midland laterite hills

---

*Eco-activists turn spotlight on biodiversity richness of region which, they fear, will vanish if quarrying continues*



The midland laterite hills of North Malabar are not what they have been generally perceived: vast expanses of wasteland that can be used as a rich source of laterites.

Environmental activists in the region are now turning the spotlight on biodiversity richness of the ecologically important midland hillocks which they fear will disappear if there is no control over the uncontrolled quarrying of laterite bricks from the area.

The local green activists are now drawing public attention to the threat to the midland laterite hills which are either becoming scrub jungles or vanishing in the process of reclamation. A recent study conducted by a group of environmentalists in a vast expanse of laterite plateau located at Blathur here is just a reiteration of what they have been stating for the past couple of years.

“Many midland laterite hills in the district have already been demolished over the years and the remaining ones are under threat from the quarry and sand-mining groups,” secretary of the Society for Environmental Education-Kerala (SEEK) V.C. Balakrishnan, who was part of the survey, said.

The preliminary report the team has prepared says that the laterite hill spread over Blathur and nearby areas are rich in biodiversity. Over 450 flowering plant species, including rare ones, some of which were also found at Madayipara, have been identified there. Also sighted were over 50 butterfly species and over 20 dragonflies and damselflies.

The report calls for more detailed study there and steps to protect the hill from uncontrolled laterite mining in the area. Major threat to the midland laterite hills in the region is scraping off of the hills by land developers.

The Payyannur-based SEEK earlier conducted a study on the biodiversity of the laterite hills.

The study published as a book titled ‘Idanadan Chenkal Kunnukal: Oru Parishthithika Sameepanam’ (Midland laterite hills of North Kerala: An ecological approach) sheds light on the ecological importance of the hillocks, especially the hydrological importance as the midland hillocks are the source of 14 of 19 rivers in Kannur and Kasaragod districts.

The reckless human intervention in these laterite hills, according to green activists, wrought havoc on their flora and fauna. The report on the laterite plateau in Blathur says that the Indian Fox-Vulpus Bengalensis, once common in such areas, have now vanished totally.

Vijayakumar Blathur, a local environmentalist who was part of the study team, says that over 150 laterite quarries functioning in the plateau at Blathur are seen as a threat to the biodiversity of the area and its water resource.

He says that unregulated quarrying activities will endanger the ecosystem of the area.

While the laterite hills and plateaus are generally seen as wasteland, environmental activists view them as unique ecosystems and ecological niches to be protected.



# Water levels

---

**Mettur:** The water level in the Mettur dam stood at 85.35 feet on Friday against its full level of 120 feet. The inflow was 2,345 cusecs and the discharge 4,998 cusecs. —Special Correspondent

**Madurai:** The water level in Periyar dam was 119.30 feet with an inflow of 595 cusecs and a discharge of 800 cusecs. The water level in Vaigai dam was 46 feet with an inflow of 364 cusecs and a discharge of 60 cusecs. The combined storage in Periyar credit was 3,271 mcft. Thekkady received 2.4 mm rainfall and Gudaloor recorded 41 mm rainfall during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Friday, PWD Officials said.

## Weather

---



	Max	Min	R	TR
New Delhi (Plm)	29	12	0	53
New Delhi (Sfd)	28	11	0	73
Chandigarh	27	10	0	43
Hissar	30	8	0	10
Bhuntar	24	3	0	26
Shimla	19	9	0	80
Jammu	26	9	0	140
Srinagar	16	-2	0	23
Amritsar	27	9	0	100

Patiala	28	10	0	11
Jaipur	29	13	0	5
Udaipur	28	12	0	55
Allahabad	29	14	0	301
Lucknow	26	10	0	42
Varanasi	27	13	0	141
Dehradun	26	10	0	48
Agartala	32	17	0	190
Ahmedabad	32	18	0	62
Bangalore	28	17	0	244
Bhubaneswar	28	20	0	674
Bhopal	28	13	0	26
Chennai	29	21	0	360
Guwahati	30	15	0	215
Hyderabad	27	18	5	253
Kolkata	29	21	0	530
Mumbai	35	22	0	72
Nagpur	29	17	0	169
Patna	27	15	0	194
Pune	30	12	0	38
Thiruvananthapuram	32	23	0	456
Imphal	29	13	0	69
Shillong	18	11	0	77

The columns show maximum and minimum temperature in Celsius, rainfall during last 24 hours (trace)

## MAINLY DRY WEATHER

**Rainfall:** Weather was dry over the region.

**MINIMUM TEMPERATURE :** The minimum temperatures changed little over the region. They were above normal in Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand and normal in rest of the region. The lowest minimum temperature in the plains was 06.2°C recorded at Sarsawa (Uttar Pradesh).

**FORECAST FOR REGION VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 02nd**

**DECEMBER 2013:** Weather would be mainly dry over the region. Fog/Shallow fog may occur over east Uttar Pradesh in morning hours during next 24 hours. **FORECAST FOR DELHI AND NEIGHBOURHOOD VALID UNTIL THE MORNING OF 02nd DECEMBER 2013:** Mainly clear sky. Mist/shallow fog in the morning.

## **Bitter harvest**

---

The Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government's move to book eight sugar mills for not starting crushing operations in the current 2013-14 season is unprecedented and highly questionable. It is one thing to lodge FIRs for not paying growers against their cane supplies; there is a law requiring that such payments be made within 14 days of delivery at the factory gate. The issue this time is, however, different as the mills haven't bought a single quintal of cane; in fact, not even placed purchase indents. Action has been taken against them for refusing to crush under the Essential Commodities Act 1955, which gives the Government powers to regulate "the production, supply and distribution" of certain commodities in the public interest. The above statute was intended to ensure that certain commodities and food products reached the general public at a reasonable price by coming down on hoarding and other malpractices. Its origins go back to World War II, when regulations were framed to empower the Government to take drastic measures to address shortages. In this case, there is no emergency and no malpractice — the issue is only one of pricing. Millers are being coerced to start crushing and also pay a State 'Advised' Price (SAP) of Rs 280/quintal for cane, which pushes up sugar production costs to over Rs 36 a kg against current realisations of Rs 29-30. In other words, they are being

asked to run their factories at a loss or face arrest for violating a legislation that is a wartime relic. Just as there is no law that gives business the right to make profits, there is none giving the State the right to force business to operate at a loss. It isn't as if the UP mills are unwilling to crush. Many of them are listed companies with huge capacities; the last thing they would want is idling plants. But it makes no sense to run them if even operational costs cannot be covered — leave alone interest on borrowed capital, depreciation and return on equity.

Sugarcane is no different from wheat, mustard or milk. The Government may want farmers to receive remunerative prices, but millers or processors cannot be made to pay a price that makes their operations unviable. If the UP Government wants cane growers to receive the SAP, it should foot the difference over what mills can afford to pay as per a transparent formula linked to sugar realisations. This excess can be directly credited to farmers' bank accounts. This is implementable for cane as farmers have bank accounts and mills maintain records of purchases made from each farmer for transferring payments.

---

***The UP Government does not have the right to force sugar mills to run at a loss.***

## Import duty hike talk hits edible oils

---



### **Mumbai, Nov. 29:**

Speculation over a possible hike in edible oils' Customs duty fuelled sentiments in the edible oils market on Friday. But slack demand, selling pressure in indigenous oils and a weak futures market kept prices stable on Friday.

Barring palmolein, which increased by Rs 2 and rapeseed oil which declined by Rs 2, all other edible oils remained unchanged. The volume remained thin, said sources.

A broker said: "On hopes of import duty hike, a leading refinery stopped offering palmolein and super palmolein, while other refineries continued offering as demand was subdued. Needy stockists bought about 80-100 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 598-600 for ready delivery in Mumbai and 250-300 tonnes of palmolein at Rs 592-596 ex-JNPT for December 10.

In producing centres, soyabean supplies are limited, but cotton supplies from the new season have been rising in spot markets that put pressure on edible oil prices. Soyabean arrivals are also likely to jump in the coming days."

Towards the day's close, Liberty was quoting super deluxe palmolein at Rs 650, soyabean refined oil at Rs 680 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 765.

Ruchi quoted palmolein at Rs 610, soyabean refined oil at Rs 670 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 721.

Allana was quoting palmolein at Rs 608 for December 10, super palmolein at Rs 625, super deluxe at Rs 645, soyabean refined oil at Rs 675 and sunflower refined oil at Rs 745. In Rajkot, groundnut oil was quoted at Rs 1,300 (Rs 1,270) for *telia* tin and loose (10 kg) was Rs 825 (Rs 810).



Soyabean arrivals were 4 lakh bags and prices were Rs 3,600-3,750 in Maharashtra while in Madhya Pradesh it was Rs 3,700-3,875 ex mandi and Rs 3,900-80 plant delivery.

Mustard seed arrivals were 85,000 bags and its prices were Rs 3,350-3,700.

**Malaysia BMD crude palm oil's** December close lower at MYR 2,615 (MYR 2,620), January at MYR 2,649 (MYR 2,655) and February at MYR 2,653 (MYR 2,656).

**The Bombay Commodity Exchange spot rates (Rs/10 kg) were:** groundnut oil 850 (850), soya refined oil 670 (670), sunflower exp. ref. 670 (670), sunflower ref. 725 (725), rapeseed ref. oil 753(755), rapeseed expeller ref. 723 (725) cottonseed ref. oil 663 (663) and palmolein 593 (591).

**Vikram Global Commodities (P) Ltd** quoted Rs 675/10 kg for Malaysia super palmolein December delivery.

## Cotton may wilt on tepid buying

---



Ads by Google

**Better Than Olive Oil-** With 2 Times Antioxidant Power Compared To Olive Oil. Know More!  
[www.saffolalife.com/SaffolaTotal](http://www.saffolalife.com/SaffolaTotal)

**Rajkot, Nov. 29:**

Cotton prices decreased on Friday as local and export demand continues to be lukewarm.

According to market sources, prices may decline further next week as buying activity is expected to be tepid while arrivals are likely to increase.

Gujarat Sankar-6 cotton price decreased by Rs 200-300 to Rs 38,500-39,000 for a candy of 356 kg.

*Kapas or raw cotton declined by Rs 10 to Rs 830-940 a maund of 20 kg and gin delivery kapas was quoted at Rs 950-960.*

*Cottonseed price dropped by Rs 5 to Rs 340-348 in Rajkot.*

*About 60,000 bales (of 170 kg) of cotton arrived in Gujarat and 1.48 lakh bales arrived across the country.*

*Traders said that the natural fibre's price is under pressure as exporters not keen on buying due to weak demand in the global market.*

*Moreover, domestic mills demand are slow in mopping up stocks, waiting for arrivals to peak.*

*Ginners demand for kapas was seen slightly down due to disparity between cotton and kapas price.*

*According to market sources, despite higher production arrival of cotton is still limited.*

*Farmers want higher price for kapas but buyers are expecting prices to decline.*

**Dow Jones reports:** *China sold about half the cotton it planned to sell in an auction Thursday, according to industry Web site CNCotton.*

*The first sale of cotton since July from the country's 10 million tonne stockpile had prompted some concerns among international traders that restarting auctions would flood the market with the fibre, distorting supply-and-demand fundamentals globally and thus affecting prices.*

## Masoor may gain on lower crop prospects

---



### **Indore, Nov. 29:**

The sluggish trend continued in pulses on slack demand with masoor (bold) ruling steady at Rs 4,250 a quintal, while masoor (medium) ruled at Rs 3,800-4,000.

According to traders, its future appears to be bullish on lower crop prospect with the sowing area likely to decline.

As almost 70 per cent of the requirement is met through imports and any sharp movement in the rupee against dollar will also have its impact on prices, said a trader.

Masoor dal (medium) was quoted at Rs 5,000-5,100, while masoor dal (bold) ruled at Rs 5,200-5,300.

Moong and its dal ruled firm on subdued demand with moong (best) being quoted at Rs 5,500-6,200 (up Rs 200 from last week), while moong (medium) ruled at Rs 5,000-5,500.

Moong dal (medium) was at Rs 6,800-7,100 (up Rs 100 from last week), moong dal (bold) at Rs 7,200-7,300, while moong mongar ruled at Rs 7,500-7,700.

Similarly, urad ruled stable notwithstanding slack demand with urad (bold) at Rs 4,400-50, while urad (medium) ruled at Rs 3,800-4,200.

Urad dal (medium) was being quoted at Rs 5,000-5,100 (down Rs 300 from last week), urad dal (bold) also declined to Rs 5,200-5,300 (down Rs 300 from last week), while urad (mongar) declined to Rs 5,700-6,100 a quintal (down Rs 100 from last week).

Sluggish trend also continued in chana and tur, with chana (kanta) on Friday ruling at Rs 2,950. Similarly, weak demand also dragged tur with tur (Maharashtra) declining to Rs 4,250, while tur (Madhya Pradesh) ruled at Rs 3,700-3,800 a quintal.

## Transporters refuse to lift sugar in Maharashtra

---



### **Mumbai, Nov. 29:**

Sugar prices firmed up on Friday following a hike in freight charges by Rs 5-7 a quintal.

But transporters are refusing to load sugar from mills in view of farmers' agitation in Maharashtra. The agitation turned violent on Thursday.

*Naka* trade took place at Rs 20-60 a quintal higher on the lower side, while it was down Rs 30 on the upper side.

On the spot market and at mill level, the sentiment was steady. On the futures market, prices declined by Rs 7-16.

In Mumbai, due to month-end local demand was subdued, while supply till now is ample keeping prices steady.

Arrivals at Vashi wholesale market were 56-57 truckloads (of 100 bags each) while local dispatches were 55-56 loads.

On Thursday evening, 19-20 mills offered tenders and sold 34,000-35,000 bags at Rs 2,690-2,790 (Rs 2,690-2,790) for S-grade and Rs 2,800-3,000 (Rs 2,800-3,000) for M-grade.

**The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association's spot rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,866-2,962 (Rs 2,846-2,962) and M-grade Rs 3,010-3,222 (Rs 3,010-3,222).

**Naka delivery rates were:** S-grade Rs 2,830-2,870 (Rs 2,810-2,900) and M-grade Rs 2,960-3,080 (Rs 2,900-3,110).

**Uttar Pradesh rates were:** Muzzafarnagar Rs 3,200.

## Turmeric may rule stable till mid-December

---



### **Erode, Nov. 29:**

Sales of quality turmeric increased in Erode markets on Friday on the back of fresh demand from North India.

“Traders and exporters received fresh upcountry demand for the past couple of days, so they bought over 70 per cent of the offerings. But the price ruled stable. The current price tend will continue till mid-December. After that, the new crop will arrive putting pressure on prices,” said R.K.V. Ravishankar, President, Erode Turmeric Merchants Association.

He said that farmers are bringing quality turmeric over the last few days, so prices have touched Rs 6,500 a quintal. If the arrival of quality turmeric stops, prices may decrease. The hybrid finger and root varieties also increased due to arrival of fine produce. On Friday, 5,000 bags arrived for sale and 60 per cent was quality turmeric.

At the Erode Turmeric Merchants Association sales yard, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,011-6,405 and the root variety at Rs 3,900-5,499 a quintal.

**Salem Hybrid:** The finger variety quoted at Rs 5,809-6,806 and the root variety at Rs 4,888-5,919. Of the 1,173 bags that arrived, only 402 were sold.



At the Regulated Market Committee, the finger variety was sold at Rs 5,474-6,389; the root variety at Rs 4,689-5,619. Of the 1,360 bags on sale, 1,280 were traded.

At the Erode Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety fetched Rs 5,111-6,511 and the root variety Rs 4,611-5,669. All the 666 bags found takers.

At the Gobichettipalayam Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Society, the finger variety was sold at Rs 4,689-6,362; the root variety Rs 3,189-5,381. All the 125 bags were sold.

## Wheat seen ruling firm on limited stocks

---



### **Karnal, Nov. 29:**

Dara wheat in the physical market is expected to rule firm, while prices in the futures market are likely to trade in ranges in the coming days, according to trade experts.

Restricted availability of stocks pushed dara wheat prices further up on Friday.

Radhey Sham, a trade expert, told *Business Line* that situation was anticipated. In the absence of any major market moving factor, dara wheat and flour prices may continue to rule around current levels with marginal fluctuation in the coming days, he added.

Stocks available with private traders are limited, resulting in traders and millers procuring stocks from the Food Corporation of India to meet their requirement, said trade experts. Domestic demand is also lending support to the market.

In the physical market, dara wheat moved further up by Rs 5 to Rs 1,645-50 a quintal. Around 850 bags of wheat arrived and stocks were directly offloaded at the mills. Mill delivery was at Rs 1,645, while delivery at the chakki was at Rs 1,650.

A positive trend was witnessed on the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange on Friday.

Wheat for December delivery improved by Rs 3 to Rs 1,668 with an open interest of 2,070 lots.

December contracts have some support at Rs 1,661, while resistance is at Rs 1,670.

January contracts went up by Rs 3 to Rs 1,669. In the spot market, wheat moved up by Rs 2.50 to Rs 1,595.

### **Flour Prices**

After witnessing a good uptrend earlier this week, flour moved further up on rising demand, increased by Rs 30 to Rs 1,940-50.

Similarly, Chokar increased by Rs 50 and sold at Rs 1,500 a quintal.

## **Aquaculture catching on in Karnataka's Mandya district**

---

### **Mangalore, Nov. 29:**

The profile of Mandya district in Karnataka is changing with aquaculture now beginning to make a mark. The district in Karnataka is known for its contribution to sugarcane, paddy and ragi production.

Mandya, which was producing around 15 lakh fingerlings before 2007, is now producing around 1.8 crore, according to Shivakumar M., a professor at the College of Fisheries and the principal investigator to study aquaculture in the district.

The study was taken up under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana between 2007 and 2012.

He told *Business Line* that aquaculture was not promoted at the cost of resources meant for other crops such as paddy, sugarcane and ragi.

“We promoted aquaculture in 258 villages on lands with higher alkaline content and low productivity.

“Lands that got water-logged often were also taken up for the project.

“We suggested only 10-20 per cent of such lands for aquaculture and the rest should be retained for agriculture,” he said.

Asked about the success rate in the project, he said around 70 per cent of farmers who took up aquaculture under the project have become successful.

Krishnegowda, a farmer from Chattanahalli village of Mandya district, who has around 2.5 acres of water-logged land, has been into aquaculture for the past three years. This farmer, who tried his hand in sugarcane and paddy cultivation earlier, said that he has been getting good yield for the past three years.

Recently, he sold around 18 lakh fingerlings from six ponds on his field. He spent around Rs 3 lakh on aquaculture, and made a profit of Rs 3 lakh in 60 days.

K.B. Shivanna, a farmer from Maddur taluk of Mandya district, said that he took the ponds meant for feeding water to cattle in his village on lease two years ago. After spending Rs 40,000, he earned around Rs 2.75 lakh.

Since he did not get the pond on lease the next year, he constructed a pond on an acre of his land holdings. Though, four acres of sugarcane gives him around 250 tonnes of yield.

For that, he has to wait for a year or so to get the money after supplying sugarcane to factories. The returns in aquaculture are quick, he said.

Highlighting the potential for taking up aquaculture in Karnataka, Shivakumar said the State needs around 44 crore fingerlings.

This estimate is for 50 per cent of the water-spread area in the State.

However, Karnataka is producing only around 22 crore fingerlings.

Shivakumar said that aquaculture should be promoted in controlled and phased manner in inland areas.

“If aquaculture is promoted in Mandya and dry-land areas, it will help increase the water table. In the long run, water crisis will get solved,” he said.

## **Bengal Govt to open 20 kisan mandis with storage facilities**

---



**Kolkata, Nov. 29:**

Kolkata, Nov. 29 The West Bengal Government is likely to open more than 20 *kisan mandis* (farmer markets) at block levels by January next.

The mandis will have storage facilities.

“We expect to make 22-23 kisan mandis ready by January.

“Aimed at preventing distress sale of agriculture products, these mandis will also provide modern storage facilities,” according to Moly Ghatak, State Agriculture Minister, here.

He was addressing the 4th Agro Protech seminar, organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

### **Seed storage**

According to P.K. Majumdar, Adviser to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Agriculture, the State proposes to open 341 mandis, one in each block.

“Of the total, 95 mandis are under construction and expected to be ready in six months. Construction work will start for another 85 such mandis soon,” Majumdar said.

According to the Minister, 50 warehouses for seeds are also under construction.

“The proposed godowns will entail an estimated investment of Rs 23 crore. So, the State has released Rs 10 crore for this project,” the Minister said.

The State Government has also chalked out plans to introduce a “crop insurance scheme” for commercial crops.

This scheme is aimed at helping the farmers recover their crop loss due floods and other natural disasters.

According to the minister, the State might also bear the premium amount for the insurance.

Earlier at the seminar, Sudhir Kumar Goel, Additional Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, urged corporate sector to invest in agriculture and the allied industry.

According to Goel, 10 projects have been launched through public-private partnership route in Maharashtra for integrated agriculture development.

The models could be replicated in other states, he said.

## Despite problems in UP, wheat planting up over 10%

---

**Rising coverage** (in lakh hectares)

Crop	Area	
	This Year	Last Year
Rice	1.06	0.87
Wheat	179.44	158.46
Total Pulses	104.97	102.49
Coarse Cereals	40.45	46.15
Oilseeds	69.96	66.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>395.87</b>	<b>374.87</b>

Source: Ministry of Agriculture





**New Delhi, Nov. 29:**

Planting of rabi crops has gathered pace with area under most increasing barring coarse cereals.

According to Agriculture Ministry data on Friday, the area under wheat, rice, pulses and oilseeds is on the rise aided by better soil moisture and higher storage in major reservoirs.

Though farmers in Uttar Pradesh, the top wheat grower, have been hampered by not being able to harvest sugarcane and plant wheat, the area under the cereal is up by over 10 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year.

Growers in Uttar Pradesh have been hampered by sugar mills' refusal to begin crushing operations demanding that the State Government lower the support price for sugarcane from Rs 280 a quintal to Rs 225.

As on date, wheat has been planted on 179.44 lakh hectares (lh) against 158.46 lh.

According to officials, rains in October have encouraged farmers in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to take up wheat on a largescale. Reports from Madhya Pradesh say that many farmers are switching over to wheat, mainly from chana (gram), attracted by the additional bonus the State Government has been giving for the last two years.

The area under rice has begun to catch up despite rains affecting planting in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Rabi rice sowing has increased to 1.06 lh against 87,000 hectares during the same period a year ago.

The area under pulses is also showing marginal improvement.

Though higher support prices could encourage growers, they could be put off by drop in prices of kharif pulses.

Currently, the coverage of pulses has increased by some 2.50 lh. Coarse cereals coverage has been affected by rains, particularly in South India. States on the eastern coast, where sowing of coarse cereals is taken up during rabi, have seen at least three cyclones hitting the shores.

With another cyclone heading towards the coast, sowing activity is unlikely to pick up in the South.

Better soil moisture is helping coverage of oilseeds, particularly rapeseed/mustard in Rajasthan.

According to the Central Water Commission, the storage level in the 85 major reservoirs in the country continues to be at a 10-year high.

As on November 27, the water level in the reservoirs was 78 per cent or 121.389 billion cubic metres (BCM) of the 154.877 BCM capacity.

At least seven reservoirs in the country are filled to the capacity, while the level in another 23 is between 90 and 99 per cent of the full level.

Though the North-East Monsoon has been 32 per cent excess, some parts such as Tamil Nadu, south and north interior Karnataka, central Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya have received deficient rainfall.

## Pepper falls despite easing of selling pressure

---

### **Kochi, Nov. 29:**

Pepper prices continued to fall in spot and futures markets despite selling pressure easing further on Friday. However, December contracts closed marginally higher. Sellers were quoting Rs 500 a kg but there were no takers. A similar situation prevailed for Rajkumari pepper that was offered at Rs 505.

On the spot, 17 tonnes of pepper arrived and the offtake was 15 tonnes at Rs 486-496, depending on the quality and area of production. On the NMCE, December contract fell by Rs 139 to Rs 51,010 while January contract moved up by Rs 246 to Rs 50,760. Total turnover increased by nine tonnes to 21 tonnes. Total open interest increased by one tonne to 10 tonnes.

On the IPSTA, all the contracts fell by Rs 1,000. December and January contracts closed at Rs 51,329 and Rs 51,000 a quintal respectively. The turnover increased by 16 tonnes. Net open position remained at four tonnes.

Spot prices declined by Rs 100 to Rs 48,600 (ungarbled) and Rs 50,600 (garbled) a quintal.

Prices for export remained at \$8,550 (c&f) to Europe and \$8,800 a tonne (c&f) to the .

## Spot rubber prices rise with futures

---

### **Kottayam, Nov.29:**

Rubber prices improved on Friday, gaining strength from overall gains in the domestic and international futures markets.

The commodity was almost steady during early trade, but covering purchases at lower levels helped prices to firm up during late trading hours.

According to sources, major consuming industries continued to abstain from the market. The trend was mixed.

Sheet rubber increased to Rs 153 (Rs 151) a kg, as quoted by the traders.

The grade finished firm at Rs 152.50 (Rs 152) and Rs 149.50 (Rs 149) respectively, according to the Rubber Board and dealers.

December futures improved to Rs 155.20 (Rs 154.35), January to Rs 157.30 (Rs 156.40), February to Rs 160 (Rs 159.13), March to Rs 162.39 (Rs 159.99) and April to Rs 163.50 (Rs 161.50) on the National Multi Commodity Exchange.

RSS 3 (spot) closed marginally higher at Rs 155 (Rs 154.45) at Bangkok. December futures closed at ¥262.2 (Rs 160.04) on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange.

**Spot rubber rates Rs/kg were:** RSS-4: 153 (151); RSS-5: 142.50 (142); Ungraded: 139 (137); ISNR 20: 144.50 (144.50); and Latex 60%: 105 (105).

## Tea rates up at Kolkata sale

---

### **Kolkata, Nov. 29:**

The average price of tea recorded a jump at this week's sale at the Kolkata auction compared with the previous week.

According to J Thomas & Company Pvt Ltd, the tea auctioneers, this week, the average price of orthodox tea improved to Rs 183.75 (Rs 177.34) a kg and that of CTC to Rs 153.14 (Rs 145.11).

An estimated 80.25 per cent (82 per cent) of orthodox and 79.33 per cent (80.35 per cent) of CTC volumes offered were sold.

This week, the total offerings (packages) at the three North Indian auction centres at Kolkata, Guwahati and Siliguri were 4,63,774 compared with 4,07,548 in the corresponding sale of last year.

Of this, the offerings at Kolkata comprised CTC/dust 1,63,964 (1,38,681), orthodox 27,521 (47,286) and Darjeeling 10,038 (7,214).

The offerings at the other two centres were: Guwahati 1,50,942 (1,59,181) and Siliguri 1,11,309 (55,186).

Assam CTC broken maintaining quality were firm around last with good leaf categories dearer.

Tata Global was operated mainly for the mediums in the leaf sale, and operated for all categories in the dust sale. Hindustan Unilever operated on the better sorts. Western India supported the liquoring teas.

Strong exporter interest was noticed in the medium and better fannings, as well as large broken. The CIS and West Asia shippers operated actively.

## Tamil Nadu set to receive long-due wet spell

---

### **Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 29:**

A spurt of heavy rainfall has been forecast at isolated places over coastal Tamil Nadu from Sunday with stormy conditions developing over south Bay of Bengal.

## **FRESH STORM**

A trough, an elongated area of lower pressure that generates weather, has been established over the seas linking Tamil Nadu and adjoining Sri Lanka with south-east Bay.

This is where global models suspect that another tropical storm might develop by mid-week next week (around December 5) and move in towards south-east Tamil Nadu.

A US military forecast persisted with the view that another tropical cyclone could develop in the area and set a track straight to the west.

European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts too subscribes to this view but does not seem to suggest a particularly strong system evolving just yet. In any case, next week could bring some meaningful and badly needed rain for Tamil Nadu after successive away-going cyclones denied it its due share.

## **WET PHASE**

The wet phase may last into the week that follows as well, if initial assessments are anything to go by.

India Met Department has said that rain or thundershowers would break out at many places over Tamil Nadu and Kerala and isolated places over rest of peninsula from Monday.

Thundershowers would lash at isolated places over Tamil Nadu during next two days and cover many places, thereafter.

## **LEHAR REMNANT**

A similar forecast is valid for Kerala for the next two days, with rains expected to pick up in strength after two days.

Meanwhile, the deep depression (remnant of erstwhile cyclone Lehar) weakened rapidly and hung over Telangana as a rudimentary low-pressure area on Friday.

The 'low' will continue to bring rain at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh during next two days.

Isolated places over south Madhya Maharashtra and Marathawada too might benefit from spill-over rain from Saturday onwards. [vinson.kurian@thehindu.co.in](mailto:vinson.kurian@thehindu.co.in)

## Farmers seek relief package for cattle affected with foot and mouth disease

---

RICHY: Farmer leaders locked horns with the [district collector Jayashree Muralidharan](#) over the exact number of cows that might have succumbed to foot and mouth disease (FMD). The farmers, who had come for the monthly meet, alleged that officials like veterinarians and the village administrative officers turned a blind eye to the process of enumeration. As soon as the meeting started, the farmer leaders made a ruckus and demanded compensation for the 'hundreds of cows' that had been killed due to FMD.

However, the collector charged that there was an attempt by some people to include cattle that might have died a natural death in the list of cattle that succumbed to FMD. "On an average, 40 cattle die a day in the district and the process of finding out the exact number was on," she explained. However, she said the district administration was working together with the animal husbandry department to contain the spread of the disease.

Joint director, department of animal husbandry I Chinnadurai pointed out that the district witnessed only eight FMD-related

cattle deaths and more than 20 teams had been formed to monitor the issue. The collector also summoned a farmer from Madurai district to brief his counterparts in Trichy on how to protect the FMD affected cattle.

Meanwhile, the collector exhorted the farmers cultivating paddy to go for cash crops and not to lay too much [stress](#) on paddy in the times of depleting water tables and failing electric supply.

Jayashree said that under the integrated horticulture development scheme the idea was to bring more areas under horticulture with the use of hybrid seeds and pedigree planting materials. Under the scheme, 750 acres had been identified in the district and Rs 15 lakh worth of hybrid seeds had been supplied at 50% subsidy. Moreover, under the [National Horticulture Mission](#), protected cultivation including high density planting was planned. The administration was in the process of training 200 farmers in canopy management, precision farming and hi-tech horticulture, she said.

The joint registrar of cooperative societies [Rajendra Prasad](#) said that at the instance of the district collector the sector had increased the agricultural loans by Rs 30 crore to make it a total of Rs 210 crore.



# Business Standard

---

## UP sugar impasse: Cane diversion picks up



### **Farmers are now desperate for money to meet day-to-day expenses**

---

The situation in the country's [sugar](#) sector remains grim, though Maharashtra has seen a breakthrough of sorts. Desperation among [sugarcane](#) farmers in Uttar Pradesh is forcing them to queue [up](#) at the nearest kolhu (jaggery unit) to sell cane at [prices](#) ranging from Rs 120-225 a quintal, depending upon location and the availability of cane in the vicinity.

"The stalemate is hurting farmers. For liquidity, he is forced to sell sugarcane at throwaway prices," Sudhir Panwar, president of Kisan Jagriti Manch and a Lucknow University professor, told Business Standard. He rued the fact that though the government was empowered to enforce the fair and remunerative price on jaggery and khandsari units, according to the UP Sugarcane Act, there was no action on this front. In western Uttar Pradesh, sugarcane farmers have been demanding the settlement of arrears, the resumption of mill operations and an increase in cane prices.

A total of 31 sugar mills have started crushing operations in Uttar Pradesh— 22 in the cooperative sector, eight in the private sector and a UP State Sugar Corporation mill.

Meanwhile, the sugar sector in Maharashtra heaved a sigh of relief on Friday, after Swabhimani Sanghatana called off its agitation, albeit temporarily.

### **Karnataka to seek central relief**

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said he would lead a delegation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar to seek relief from the central government for sugarcane farmers.

# Sugar output likely to fall by 10-15%

**However, it might not any impact on prices or supplies as opening stock of sugar is much more than required at around 9 mn tonnes**

---

As the impasse between the government and millers continued in Uttar Pradesh, analysts said India's sugar output in 2013-14 could drop 10-15 per cent on a year ago if crushing did not start in 15 days. In Maharashtra and Karnataka, too, crushing has not started, as the farmers are demanding a higher cane price.

However, it might not have any impact on prices or supplies as the opening stock of sugar, nine million tonnes, is much more than required, said the chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, Ashok Gulati. "We have excess stock and a 10-15 per cent cut in production would bring the market to equilibrium." "The more the cane stands in the field, there is a possibility of production getting impacted, as the sucrose in those would go down," an expert said.

Indian Sugar Mills Association on Friday said till November, 0.80 million tonnes of sugar was produced in the country, 67 per cent less than last year, as 208 of India's 400-odd sugar mills started crushing. On Thursday, Food Minister K V Thomas said there was no impact on production, but conceded output could fall if the impasse continued and the farmers did not bring the cane to the mills. He said production in the 2013-14 crop marketing year (October-September) was expected to be 24.4 mt, 2.7 per cent less a year ago.

However, this drop is due to drought in Maharashtra and Gujarat last year and not because of the current logjam between millers and sugarcane growers.

India's sugar production in 2013-14 is estimated at 24.4 million tonnes, while demand is estimated at 23.5 million tonnes. "The difference between demand and supply of sugar is expected to be around 0.85-0.90 million tonnes," Thomas said. He said the old five-year cycle of excess and deficient production in sugar is over.

The impasse of sugarcane pricing has impacted crushing with as more than 70 of the 99-odd private mills in Uttar Pradesh have suspended their operation. The crushing had to start from middle of November.